

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.

Me



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/022,536	12/20/2001	Tadashi Ohashi	1341.1115	2174
21171	7590	08/13/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			WOO, ISAAC M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2172	

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/022,536

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, TADASHI

Examiner

Isaac M Woo

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 11, 13 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 11 and 13-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant elected Group I, claims 10, 11 and 13-14 without traverse in the paper, filed on May 24, 2004. And applicant canceled non-elected claims 1-9 and 12.

2. The pending claims are 10-11 and 13-14.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 10-11 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Britton (U.S. Patent No. 6,591,289) in view of Cohen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,178,430, hereinafter, "Cohen").

With respect to claims 10-11 and 13-14, Britton discloses, discussion document storage step of storing a digitized discussion document in a discussion document database, see (46, fig. 1, col. 6, lines 3-18, digitized document stored in database); attribute information storage step of storing attribute information on

Art Unit: 2172

a user as an attribute information database, see (col. 8, lines 33-54, user information is attributes); template providing step of providing a template to a discussion requester as the user by a frame with a work process and the attribute information corresponding to the discussion document used as keys, see (col. 7, lines 14-37); discussion document creation discussion document based on the template, see (col. 7, lines 38-67); search step of searching material information designated by the discussion participant from a plurality of items of material information associated with the discussion document requested in the discussion request step, see (col. 9, lines 18-26, col. 10, lines 1-37); material information providing step of providing the material information searched in the search step to the discussion participant when discussing the discussion document, see (col. 9, lines 18-26, col. 10, lines 1-37). Britton does not explicitly disclose discussion request step of requesting a discussion participant as the user to discuss and discussion step of allowing the discussion participant to discuss. However, Cohen discloses, "The Web Server process stores change requests, conference scheduling requests, and updates to the standards document in the local standards database 312. Updates are regularly uploaded by the Upload program 309, which converts the information into a flat file dataset format and incorporates the information via the intranet into the standards dataset 305 residing on the centralized computer system", see (col. 5, lines 15-37), "FIG. 10 displays the Conferences table. The Conferences table includes records describing each conference scheduled by the automated ITSMS. The column "Conference ID" 1001 includes a unique identifier for the conference. The column

Art Unit: 2172

"Start" 1002 includes the date and time at which the conference is to occur. The column "Duration" 1003 includes an indication of the proposed length of the conference. The column "Topic" 1004 includes a unique request identifier taken from column 901 of the Change Requests table that indicates the topic of the conference. The topic might be a proposed standards change request or an exception request. The column "Comments" 1005 includes comments made by the conference scheduler and the column "Admin Comments" 1006 includes comments entered by an administrator who reviews scheduled conferences, see (fig. 10, col. 8, lines 17-38). This teaches that user request conference to discuss. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include discussion request step of requesting a discussion participant as the user to discuss and discussion step of allowing the discussion participant to discuss in the system of the Britton. Because the on-line conference (discussion) that allows to talk every participant in real-time in network communication system.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sasaki et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,776,321) discloses the system for To members of a user group, messages and documents registered in the user group are presented, while, to other users than the members of the user group, documents preset as available also to other users than the members of the user group are presented, and as a registration destination of the messages, a user group where the contents of the message, or the message and messages and documents that are most similar to the contents of the documents corresponded thereto is searched and presented at request from users.

Art Unit: 2172


Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IMW
July 27, 2004


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER